

# THUNDERBOLT SPLITTING TOOL

Splits logs like lightning!

**PURPOSE:** With this tool one man easily and quickly splits large logs for fuel and cracks stumps for easier pulling. Reduced charges split logs for posts or pulp wood. By splitting logs a small outfit and few men produce more at lower cost due to easier handling. A few pennies worth of 2f or 3f or 4f Blasting Powder does the heavy work. NEVER use dynamite or any high explosive.

**PREPARATION:** An old pant-leg wired or chained at hole provided is a carrying bag, a fuse hole cover while driving, and a finding flag.

**LOGS:** Pour powder into large hole to within 1 inch of full, insert a dry leaf or paper wad and drive into end of log hardest to split 2 or 3 inches using an 8 or 10 pound maul. Drive it TIGHT. Cover fuse hole while driving. A block or stone back-stop adds power in very large logs — otherwise optional. Insert 5 to 10 inches of standard safety fuse FIRMLY into fuse hole. CAUTION—order others away from danger of flying splinters and see that your exit is clear. Slit end of fuse and insert match as illustrated. Strike match with box. When fuse spits fire and smoke leave quickly.

Use will quickly develop judgment as to amount of powder, fuse length, and a safe distance.

ALWAYS drive into sound wood at or below center of end of log.

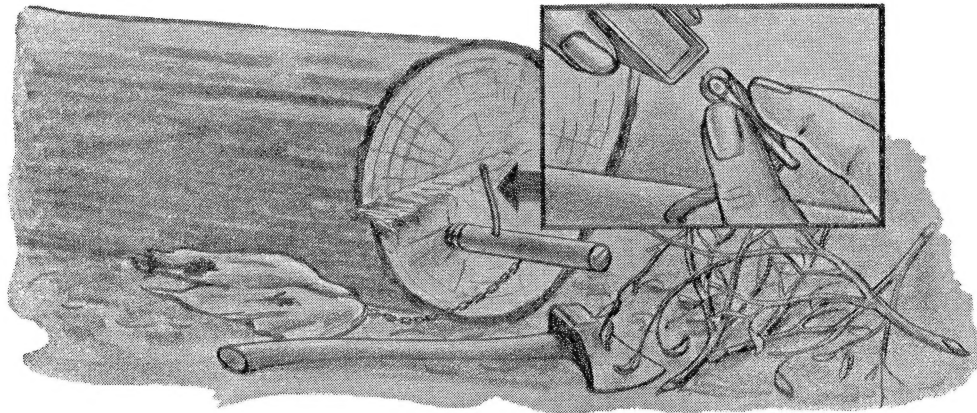
Full charge is seldom necessary and hinders driving at least 3 gripper rings into wood.

Allow room around log—other logs tight along side interfere. See that small hole at bottom of fuse hole is always open.

**POST HOLES:** Load, insert fuse FIRMLY and bend up alongside tool. Drive FULL LENGTH into ground placing a 20 to 50 pound weight on end of tool before lighting. Generally the heavier the weight the larger the hole. Poking a bar into the ground often avoids striking stones.

**STUMPS:** Drive tool into top of stump as in end of log. Place a 20 to 50 pound weight on top before lighting fuse. Blow a few holes in earth at base of stump. Cut exposed roots—Pieces will pull easier.

Keep powder DRY and don't handle it near fire.



## FUELWOOD TIPS

All factors equal, the relative value of seasoned wood is in direct ratio to its weight. Hardwoods are denser, heavier and therefore contain more wood cells than softwoods which contain larger air cells in their structure. A ton of sound seasoned hardwood contains about the same heat value as good quality coal. Generally the denser the wood the slower it burns (also true of coal). Green wood must be dried in the fire before it will burn, resulting in a heat loss of 30 to 40 per cent of seasoned value. Burning seasoned wood saves work in cutting, handling, and time in quicker heat and meals.

Wise cutting of fuelwood improves timber production. Fuelwood is a valuable farm product and a seasoned surplus is like money in the bank.

Hickory, Yellow Birch, and White Ash are good fuel when necessary to burn it green.

Seasoned Hickory is excellent fuel followed by Oak, Ironwood, Beech, Sugar Maple, Black and Yellow Birch, Locust, and seasoned Apple. Cherry is fair. Elm is poor.

Woods that are worthless fuel green but good when seasoned are: Apple (Orchard or Thorn), Blue Beech, Water Oak, Red Oak.

Wood dries from the end of the piece, evaporating little moisture from the side. Splitting, however, aids drying by removal of bark.

Hickory, Beech, Sugar Maple, Birch and Slippery Elm are readily split when green but difficult when seasoned. White Elm, Box Elder Buckeye, Cherry, Honey Locust, Tupelo, Sycamore are generally difficult to split green or seasoned.

Generally a block splits easier from the top of tree end.

Rank firewood to serve as snow fence around buildings. A whole tree dragged into position is a fair emergency snow fence.

Wood ashes contain alkali, scour well by mild abrasive and grease dissolving action, have some value as fertilizer, an insulator and are a good cover in the outhouse.

No smell on earth is as pleasing to a cold, tired, hungry human after a day in the open as the smoke from his wood fire.

## THE THUNDERBOLT COMPANY

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